

BRECON BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

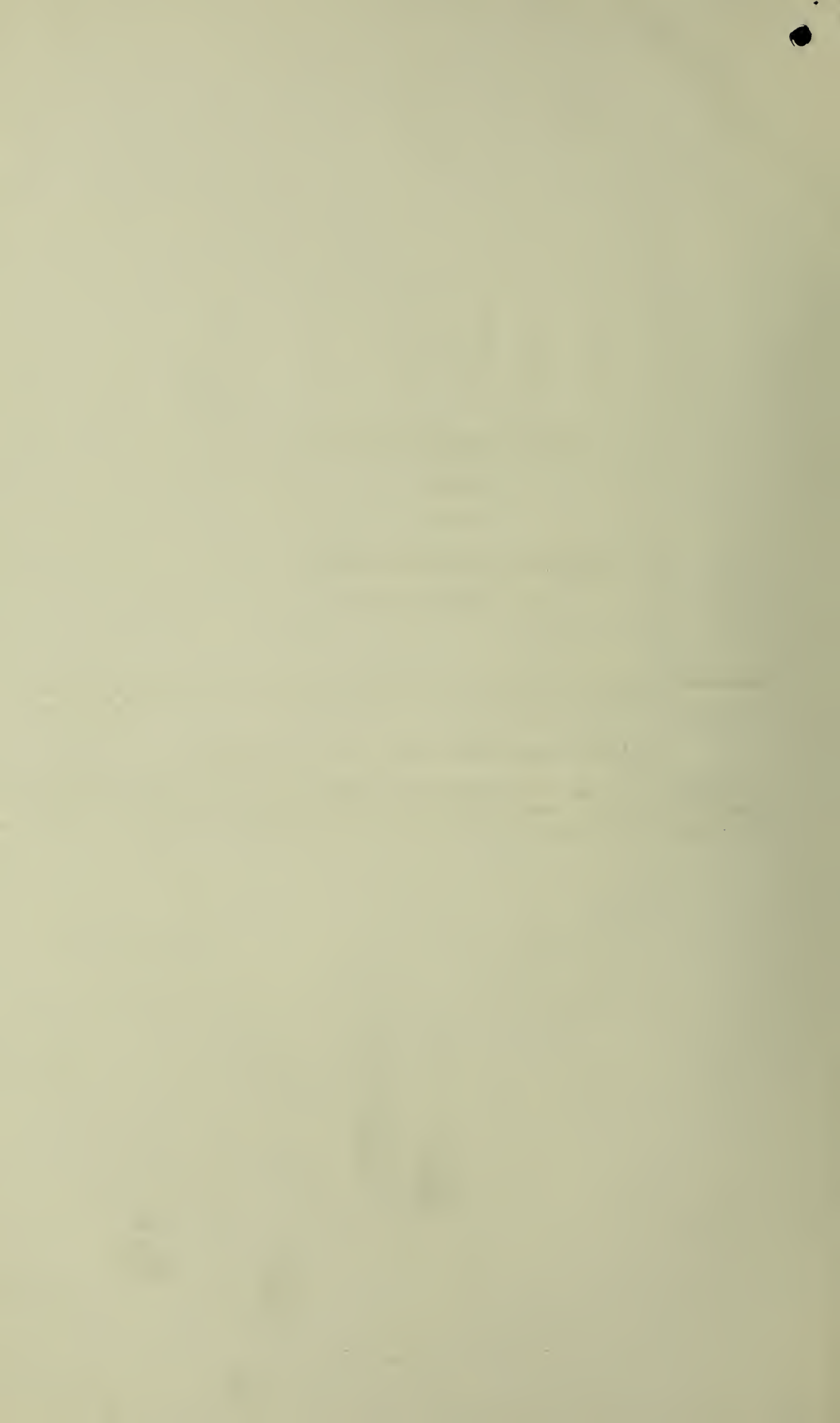
for the year 1952.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....S. Jinks,

Sanitary Inspector's  
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's  
Examination Joint Board; Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the  
Royal Sanitary Institute, Testamur of the Cardiff Technical College.



BRECON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1952.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Borough of Brecon for the year, 1952.

The arrangements of the report is in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 2/53 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical summary for the year 1952.

Area.....2868 acres.  
Population (Census 1951).....6466.  
Population (Estimated at Midsummer, 1952).....6671.  
Number of inhabited houses.....1661.

Live Births	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	50	36	86	
Illegitimate	3	0	3	
	53.	36.	89.	13.3

Still Births.	0.	1.	1.	0.15
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Deaths from all causes	48.	31.	79.	11.8
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Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under 1 year.....2. Rate per 1000 live births.....22.4

Deaths from special causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.

Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....Nil.

Other tuberculous disease.....One.

Cancer.....14.

Area. The Borough of Brecon, which has an area of 2868 acres, is a County Town of a shire of its own name, containing the County Offices of various government departments and a large military camp and Barracks. The town consists of the parishes of St. John's and St. Mary's on the north side of the River Usk, these parishes being divided by the Honddu stream; and of the parish of St. David known as St. David's Within and also, more familiarly as Llanfaes, which lies south of the River Usk and eastward of the confluence of the Tarrell stream with that river.

The two parts of the town are connected by an ancient stone bridge over the Usk.

The town is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation in the surrounding districts.

Population. Census 1931.....5332.

Census 1951.....6466.

1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952.

5431. 5149. 4926. 4618. 4629. 5515. 5627. 5658. 6562. 6593. 6671.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 1661 giving an average number of 4.0 persons per house.

| <u>Births.</u>               | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1939.....                    |               |                 |               | 19.2         |
| 1940.....                    | 56.....       | 52.....         | 108.....      | 19.7         |
| 1941.....                    | 47.....       | 44.....         | 91.....       | 17.2         |
| 1942.....                    | 55.....       | 49.....         | 104.....      | 19.1         |
| 1943.....                    | 42.....       | 49.....         | 91.....       | 17.6         |
| 1944.....                    | 51.....       | 41.....         | 92.....       | 18.7         |
| 1945.....                    | 39.....       | 34.....         | 73.....       | 15.8         |
| 1946.....                    | 51.....       | 55.....         | 106.....      | 22.8         |
| 1947.....                    | 43.....       | 60.....         | 103.....      | 22.3         |
| 1948.....                    | 42.....       | 42.....         | 84.....       | 14.8         |
| 1949.....                    | 47.....       | 62.....         | 109.....      | 19.2         |
| 1950.....                    | 49.....       | 54.....         | 103.....      | 15.7         |
| 1951.....                    | 56.....       | 50.....         | 106.....      | 16.1         |
| 1952.....                    | 53.....       | 36.....         | 89.....       | 13.3         |
| England and Wales, 1952..... |               |                 |               | 15.3         |

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents of the Borough is shown in the following table.

|                              | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1939.....                    |               |                 |               | 16.0         |
| 1940.....                    | 44.....       | 46.....         | 90.....       | 16.3         |
| 1941.....                    | 31.....       | 40.....         | 71.....       | 12.0         |
| 1942.....                    | 39.....       | 29.....         | 68.....       | 12.5         |
| 1943.....                    | 25.....       | 33.....         | 58.....       | 11.2         |
| 1944.....                    | 35.....       | 42.....         | 77.....       | 15.4         |
| 1945.....                    | 39.....       | 37.....         | 76.....       | 16.2         |
| 1946.....                    | 41.....       | 37.....         | 78.....       | 16.8         |
| 1947.....                    | 39.....       | 37.....         | 76.....       | 16.4         |
| 1948.....                    | 29.....       | 26.....         | 55.....       | 9.7          |
| 1949.....                    | 39.....       | 43.....         | 82.....       | 14.4         |
| 1950.....                    | 29.....       | 35.....         | 64.....       | 9.7          |
| 1951.....                    | 52.....       | 43.....         | 95.....       | 14.4         |
| 1952.....                    | 48.....       | 31.....         | 79.....       | 11.8         |
| England and Wales, 1952..... |               |                 |               | 11.3         |

The deathrate for 1952 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales but considerably lower than the birthrate.

| <u>Still Births.</u>         | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1939.....                    |               |                 |               | 0.7          |
| 1940.....                    | 2.....        | 0.....          | 2.....        | 0.3          |
| 1941.....                    | 0.....        | 2.....          | 2.....        | 0.3          |
| 1942.....                    | 2.....        | 0.....          | 2.....        | 0.3          |
| 1943.....                    | 0.....        | 5.....          | 5.....        | 0.9          |
| 1944.....                    | 1.....        | 1.....          | 2.....        | 0.4          |
| 1945.....                    | 1.....        | 1.....          | 2.....        | 0.4          |
| 1946.....                    | 2.....        | 2.....          | 4.....        | 0.86         |
| 1947.....                    | 2.....        | 1.....          | 3.....        | 0.60         |
| 1948.....                    | 1.....        | 2.....          | 3.....        | 0.5          |
| 1949.....                    | 1.....        | 0.....          | 1.....        | 0.17         |
| 1950.....                    | 2.....        | 1.....          | 3.....        | 0.45         |
| 1951.....                    | 2.....        | 1.....          | 3.....        | 0.45         |
| 1952.....                    | 0.....        | 1.....          | 1.....        | 0.15         |
| England and Wales, 1952..... |               |                 |               | 0.35         |

The stillbirth rate was lower than the average for the whole of England Wales.



Infantile Mortality.

This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

|                              | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1938.....                    |               |                 |               | 90.9         |
| 1939.....                    |               |                 |               | 30.3         |
| 1940.....                    | 2             | 3               | 5             | 46.          |
| 1941.....                    | 3             | 2               | 5             | 55.          |
| 1942.....                    | 1             | 0               | 1             | 9.6          |
| 1943.....                    | 1             | 0               | 1             | 10.9         |
| 1944.....                    | 6             | 1               | 7             | 76.          |
| 1945.....                    | 2             | 1               | 3             | 41.          |
| 1946.....                    | 3             | 1               | 4             | 37.          |
| 1947.....                    | 3             | 6               | 9             | 87.          |
| 1948.....                    | 0             | 0               | 0             | 0.           |
| 1949.....                    | 3             | 2               | 5             | 45.          |
| 1950.....                    | 0             | 1               | 1             | 9.7          |
| 1951.....                    | 4             | 2               | 6             | 56.          |
| 1952.....                    | 1             | 1               | 2             | 22.4         |
| England and Wales, 1952..... |               |                 |               | 27.6         |

The infantile mortality rate for 1952 was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales. There were no deaths in children of under 4 weeks old.

Analysis of causes of deaths.      Males.....48.      Females.....31.

|                                       | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Tuberculosis, non respiratory.....    | 1             | 0.              |
| Malignant neoplasms, stomach.....     | 5             | 2.              |
| Malignant neoplasms, breast.....      | 0             | 1.              |
| Other malignant neoplasms.....        | 5             | 1.              |
| Diabetes.....                         | 0             | 1.              |
| Vascular lesions, nervous system..... | 3             | 9.              |
| Coronary disease.....                 | 15            | 5.              |
| Other heart disease.....              | 8             | 4.              |
| Other circulatory disease.....        | 1             | 1.              |
| Pneumonia.....                        | 1             | 0.              |
| Bronchitis.....                       | 1             | 0.              |
| Ulcer stomach.....                    | 1             | 0.              |
| Gastritis.....                        | 1             | 1.              |
| Nephritis.....                        | 0             | 3.              |
| Hyperplasia, prostate.....            | 1             | 0.              |
| Other defined causes.....             | 3             | 2.              |
| Accidents, non motor vehicular.....   | 1             | 1.              |
| Suicide.....                          | 1             | 0.              |

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

The following table shows the number of deaths from tuberculosis and cancer in recent years.

|           | <u>Cancer</u> | <u>Tuberculosis</u> |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1939..... | 9.....        | 1.                  |
| 1940..... | 12.....       | 9.                  |
| 1941..... | 9.....        | 7.                  |
| 1942..... | 13.....       | 4.                  |
| 1943..... | 6.....        | 1.                  |
| 1944..... | 15.....       | 2.                  |
| 1945..... | 9.....        | 3.                  |
| 1946..... | 14.....       | 5.                  |
| 1947..... | 8.....        | 1.                  |
| 1948..... | 7.....        | 6.                  |
| 1949..... | 15.....       | 5.                  |
| 1950..... | 5.....        | 3.                  |
| 1951..... | 10.....       | 3.                  |
| 1952..... | 14.....       | 1.                  |

#### Illegitimacy.

The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to Borough residents during 1952 amounted to three.

#### Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

### SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers of the Council during the year.

Mr. S. Jinks remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Cardiff laboratory and any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was also performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. Milk sampling was performed by the Cardiff Laboratory, whilst the Brecon War Memorial Hospital made use of the Beck Laboratory, Swansea. The Cardiff Laboratory was used for the examination of milk for the presence of tuberculosis.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council is responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations are whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics administered by the County Council are held regularly at the Watton Chapel Schoolroom. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental and eye defects, orthopaedic defects are available at the County Health Offices. These are also administered by the County Council.



Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the Borough, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remains the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the Borough suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

### SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental treatment, orthopaedic treatment, visual defects and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

### SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. The Brecon Borough water supply is taken from a stream which originates on the Brecon Beacons. It is then conveyed to a large storage reservoir and then through slow sand filters to a small clear water chamber. After this the water is chlorinated.

(a) Quantity. Normally the water is fairly adequate as regards quantity although some difficulty is always experienced in supplying the upper reaches of the Borough. The reservoir holds approximately 2,375,000 gallons. Daily water consumption increased from 348,000 gallons to 398,000 gallons. This means that the daily consumption per head of the population is 46 gallons.

(b) Quality. The results of water samples have indicated that, whilst the final water after chlorination and as consumed in the Borough could be classified as excellent, the water before treatment could only be regarded as unsatisfactory. It is essential that the depth of sand in the filters should not be allowed to drop below a minimum of 12 inches. The provision of mechanical filters is desirable and should be provided as soon as possible.

2. Chemical Examination. No chemical examination of the water was made. There is no plumbo solvent action by the water.

(c) Piped Supply. All the houses in the Borough, with the exception of 17 of those on the extreme borders have a tapped supply to the house. The 17 others have their own private supplies.

Number of inspections of private supplies.....1.

Number of samples taken.....1.

Number of samples of public supply.....3.

(d) New Water Scheme. The Borough Council have received from their Consulting Engineer a comprehensive scheme, which can be developed in five stages, to supply water, even in drought conditions to the Town. This involves a new intake on the Nant Sere, provision of pressure filters and ultimately a new high level reservoir. This scheme would not only prevent the serious conditions as existed during the summer months of 1949, but would be a further benefit to the town to develop it into a holiday and residential centre. The town would be provided with an adequate supply of wholesome water without having to rely upon chlorination which is not altogether a safe process.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the Borough is treated by means of downward filtration and the effluent finally passes into the River Usk.

The number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with drainage work.....41.

Closet Accommodation. The number of houses within the Borough unconnected with the sewerage system was 31.

Provision of Separate Water Closet Accommodation.

Number of houses requiring provision of separate water closet accommodation.....2.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the weekly collection and disposal of house refuse; this work being done by the Council employees under the supervision of your Surveyor. The refuse is disposed of by tipping, the use of the incinerator being discontinued.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. S. Jinks. At this juncture I must state that I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the figures and details of his work contained in this report. This information has proved most useful in the preparation of this report.

Nuisances.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Number of complaints received.....        | 101. |
| Number of complaints investigated.....    | 101. |
| Number of premises inspected.....         | 116. |
| Number of premises revisited.....         | 119. |
| Number of preliminary notices served..... | 41.  |
| for (a) Structural defects.....           | 30.  |
| (b) Sanitary defects.....                 | 11.  |
| (c) Foul conditions.....                  | 0.   |
| Number of Statutory Notices served.....   | 32.  |

Result of Notices served.

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Number completed.....          | 32. |
| Number in hand of builder..... | 9.  |

Number and type of nuisance abated by service of notice.

Dampness -9, Defective eaves, troughing and downspouts -3, Defective internal plastering -9, Defective roofs -8, Defective floors -2, Defective WC pans and cisterns -11, Defective fireplaces and ovens -4, Defective drains -4.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough of Brecon.



Licensed Premises.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of licensed premises.....       | 26. |
| Number of visits to such premises..... | 58. |
| Number of notices.....                 | 3.  |

Particular attention has been given to the provision of sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation and proper washing facilities.

Details : Provision of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities.

Dec.1951. Dec.1952.

|   |         |     |
|---|---------|-----|
| Number of premises with separate sanitary accommodation.....    | 22..... | 23. |
| Number of premises without separate sanitary accommodation..... | 4.....  | 3.  |
| Number of premises with proper washing facilities.....          | 22..... | 22. |
| Number of premises without proper washing facilities...         | 4.....  | 4.  |

Shops. The number of shops in the district.....147.  
Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....58.

Factories. The number of factories on the register.....62.  
Number of inspections made.....44.  
Number of notices served.....2.

Camping Sites.

Number of caravans stationed and used.....8.  
Number of licences to erect/station a caravan granted.....13.  
Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....18.  
The licences are issued for a period of six months.

There is also one recognised yard which is mainly used by caravans during the Statutory Fairs of May and November.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

All premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found to be very successful.

Number of premises inspected.....7.  
Number of premises disinfested.....7.

Old Metal Dealer's Order 1952.

Sec. 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 came into force in the Borough on the 25th. April 1952.

Number of Registered Dealers.....1.

Rodent Control. One part time Rodent Operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Details of Inspections & Treatments

|                           | <u>Premises</u> |                 | <u>Municipal</u> | <u>Agricultural</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
|                           | <u>Business</u> | <u>Dwelling</u> |                  |                     |
| Number inspected.....     | 194.....        | 688.....        | 8.....           | 10.                 |
| Number infested.....      | 27.....         | 81.....         | 5.....           | 2.                  |
| a. Major infestations.... | 2.....          | 0.....          | 0.....           | 0.                  |
| b. Minor infestations.... | 25.....         | 81.....         | 5.....           | 2.                  |
| Number treated.....       | 27.....         | 81.....         | 5.....           | 0.                  |

Sewer Treatment. During the year two maintenance treatments were carried out. Details are given below:-

|                                       | <u>1st.Treatment</u> | <u>2nd.Treatment</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Number of manholes.....               | 177.....             | 177.                 |
| Number of manholes baited.....        | 34.....              | 30.                  |
| Number of prebait takes.....          | 26.....              | 12.                  |
| Number of complete prebait takes..... | 16.....              | 3.                   |

As the number of takes in sewer treatments has dropped to a very small number it has been advised by the Infestation Control Division that annual test baiting of 10% of the manholes over the whole system should be carried out.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Number of licensed pet shops.....1.

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

1. Housing Need.

Applicants for Council Houses. There is still a definite demand for housing accommodation in the Borough.

It must be remembered that apart from the normal residents the demand is increased due to the fact that the town is a military and administrative centre for Government and other departments.

Bearing in mind, the standard laid down by the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health on the question of "Housing Need" in their Report "Selection of Tenants" and with particular reference to their standard for overcrowding based on bedroom deficiency the Council's waiting list showed the following details:-

| Type<br>of<br>Applicant  | Total | Residing<br>in<br>Borough | From<br>outside<br>Borough |
|--|-------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Without separate accommodation, statutory overcrowding, and bedroom deficiency | 1     | 1                         | 0                          |
| Without separate accommodation and bedroom deficiency                          | 42    | 39                        | 3                          |
| Without separate accommodation   | 32    | 30                        | 2                          |
| Living in unfit house, bedroom deficiency and T.B.                             | 1     | 1                         | 0                          |
| Other T.B.Applicants   | 2     | 2                         | 0                          |
| Living in unfit houses and bedroom deficiency                                  | 24    | 23                        | 1                          |
| Living in unfit houses   | 61    | 52                        | 9                          |
| Living in other houses and bedroom deficiency                                  | 12    | 10                        | 2                          |
| Other types of applicants  | 87    | 73                        | 14                         |
| Applicants for aged persons bungalows  | 22    | 17                        | 5                          |
| Total  | 284   | 248                       | 36                         |

Housing Act 1936/49 - Unfit Houses.

Number of houses officially represented.....6.  
 Number of houses on which Demolition Orders served.....1.  
 Number of houses on which Closing Orders served.....1.



Defence Regulation 68 AA - Licences for occupation of condemned house

Number of houses occupied under licence.....5.

Allocation of Houses.

During the year the following houses were occupied:-

12 on Adelaide Gardens Estate  
2 Relets on Ffynnon Dewi Estate  
5 Bungalows on Adelaide Gardens Estate.

Exclusive of the bungalows the types of tenants selected were as follows:-

Without separate accommodation and bedroom deficiency.....6.  
Living in unfit house:bedroom deficiency and T.B.....2.  
Living in unfit house:bedroom deficiency.....4.  
Living in other houses with bedroom deficiency.....2.

Total 14

Post War Housing.1.By Borough Council.a)Houses completed.

|                     |   |           |
|---------------------|---|-----------|
| Ffynnon Dewi        | - | 64 houses |
| No. of 4 bedrooms   |   | 6         |
| No. of 3 bedrooms   |   | 52        |
| No. of 2 bedrooms   |   | 6         |
| Adelaide Gardens    | - | 47 houses |
| No. of 4 bedrooms   |   | 4         |
| No. of 3 bedrooms   |   | 38        |
| Number of bungalows |   | 5         |

b) In course of construction.Adelaide Gardens.

Number of bungalows 4

c) Plans prepared. Plans have been prepared for the development of a site in the Maendu area for 100 houses. It is hoped that tenders for the first 40 houses will be received early in 1953.

2. By Private Enterprise.

Total number of houses erected.....44.  
Total number of houses under construction.....16.

Housing Act,1949.

Number of applications for Improvement Grant.....4.  
Number of applications approved.....4.

Inspections.

Housing Inspections by Sanitary Inspector..  
Number of house to house inspections.....76.  
Number of visits to Council houses.....291.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk and Dairies Regulations,1949.

Number of registered dairies in Borough.....6.  
Number of distributors licensed by Borough Council.....6.  
Number of producer/distributors in Borough.....2.  
Number of producer/distributors from Rural District.....2.  
Total number distributing in Borough.....10.



Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations.

Number of dealers authorised by Borough Council to use  
Special Designation Tuberculin Tested.....4.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations

Number of dealers authorised by Borough Council to use  
designation Pasteurised.....2.

Record of Inspections.

Number of visits to dairies.....29.

Milk Sampling - Bacteriological.

Milk is sampled regularly and  
sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff for bacteriological  
examination.

Number of samples taken.....5.  
Number of samples satisfactory.....5.

Milk Sampling for Presence of T.B. and Brucella Abortus.

Number of samples taken.....6.  
Number of samples indicating presence of T.B.....0.  
Number of samples indicating presence of Brucella Abortus.....0.

Meat. The Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point and the Wholesale Meat  
Supply Association Depot are situated at the Council's  
Slaughterhouse. Meat from this point is supplied to the districts of  
the Borough Council, Hay U.D.C. & R.D.C. and Brecknock R.D.C.

Meat Inspection. Number of inspections by Sanitary Inspector.....446.

Animals killed and inspected.

|                  | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Killed           | 586    | 148  | 184    | 6861  | 571  |
| Dressed Carcases | 2      | 2    | 5      | 101   | 19   |
| Total            | 588    | 150  | 189    | 6962  | 590  |

Meat Condemnation.  
for T.B.

|                             | Percentage of killing. |      |        |       |      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------|--------|-------|------|
|                             | Cattle                 | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
| Whole carcases<br>condemned | 0                      | 3    | 1      | 0     | 0    |
| Percentage                  | 0                      | 2.0  | 0.5    | 0     | 0    |
| Part carcases<br>condemned  | 0                      | 0    | 0      | 0     | 38   |
| Percentage                  | 0.16                   | 0    | 0      | 0     | 6.6  |
| Organs condemned            | 19                     | 18   | 0      | 0     | 1    |
| Percentage                  | 3.2                    | 12.0 | 0      | 0     | 0.17 |

For other diseases.

|                             | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Whole carcases<br>condemned | 1      | 9    | 4      | 39    | 6    |
| Percentage                  | 0.17   | 6.0  | 2.1    | 0.56  | 1.01 |
| Part carcases<br>condemned  | 20     | 9    | 6      | 37    | 12   |
| Percentage                  | 3.4    | 6.0  | 3.1    | 0.53  | 2.03 |
| Organs                      | 289    | 0    | 3      | 453   | 11   |

Slaughter of Casualties.

|                                | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs  |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| Number killed and<br>inspected | 38     | 29   | 62     | 387   | 96    |
| Percentage of total<br>kill    | 6.4    | 19.3 | 32.8   | 5.5   | 16.03 |

11/.

BRECON BOROUGH COUNCIL

| <u>Meat Condemned<br/>for T.B.</u> | <u>Cattle</u> | <u>Cows</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep</u> | <u>Pigs</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Whole carcasses                    | 0             | 2           | 0             | 0            | 0           |
| % of casualty kill                 | 0             | 6.9         | 0             | 0            | 0           |
| Part carcasses                     | 0             | 0           | 0             | 0            | 5           |
| % of casualty kill                 | 0             | 0           | 0             | 0            | 5.2         |

| <u>For other diseases.</u> | <u>Cattle</u> | <u>Cows</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep</u> | <u>Pigs</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Whole carcasses            | 1             | 9           | 4             | 39           | 6           |
| % of casualty kill         | 2.6           | 31.03       | 6.4           | 10.1         | 6.2         |
| Part carcasses             | 10            | 8           | 6             | 28           | 11          |
| % of casualty kill         | 26.3          | 27.6        | 9.6           | 7.2          | 11.2        |

The casualty figures indicate:-

- 1.The importance of having a slaughterhouse available in a producing area for it will be noticed than an appreciable amount of the slaughtering for this year was the Slaughtering of Casualties.This ensures a good percentage of sound meat for the general public and prevents a serious waste of the country's meat supply.
- 2.The higher percentage of condemnation indicates the need for keen inspection.

Total Weight in lbs. condemned.  
for T.B.

|                 | <u>Cattle</u> | <u>Cows</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep</u> | <u>Pigs</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Whole carcasses | 0             | 1460        | 40            | 0            | 0           |
| Part carcasses  | 0             | 0           | 0             | 0            | 606         |
| Organs          | 442           | 603         | 10            | 0            | 9           |
| Total Weight    | 442           | 2063        | 50            | 0            | 615         |

For other diseases.

|                 |       |      |     |      |     |
|-----------------|-------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Whole carcasses | 200   | 4091 | 114 | 1387 | 464 |
| Part carcasses  | 1240  | 904  | 89  | 313  | 378 |
| Organs          | 4019  |      | 51  | 1615 | 107 |
| Total Weight    | 10454 |      | 254 | 3315 | 949 |

Detailed causes for condemnation other than Tuberculosis

| <u>Disease</u>         | <u>Animals wholly or partly condemned</u> |             |               |              |             |
|------------------------|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
|                        | <u>Cattle</u>                             | <u>Cows</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep</u> | <u>Pigs</u> |
| Emaciation             | 0   | 6           | 4             | 21           | 1           |
| Bruising, Broken bones | 14  | 8           | 4             | 28           | 6           |
| Dropsical & fevered    | 1   | 4           | 0             | 17           | 2           |
| Abcess                 | 4   | 0           | 2             | 6            | 3           |
| Moribund               | 0   | 0           | 0             | 1            | 1           |
| Swine Erysipelas       | 0   | 0           | 0             | 0            | 5           |
| Decomposition          | 2   | 0           | 0             | 2            | 0           |
| Pleurisy               | 0   | 0           | 0             | 1            | 1           |

Cysticercus Bovis. Cysts were found in the masseter muscles of 2 cattle.

Other Foods.

Number of tins condemned.....512.  
Number of lbs. of other foods condemned.....692.



Slaughterhouse.

A scheme for the modernising of Brecon Slaughterhouse has been approved by the Ministry of Food and the permission of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government received to raise a loan for this purpose. When this scheme is completed it will be possible to deal with a larger number of animals in a more hygienic and labour saving manner. As it is known that the present Government's policy is to revise the present methods of Marketing of Fat Stock, many local authorities are wondering how their slaughterhouse will fit into the national scheme of a limited number of slaughterhouses. It would seem reasonable that the authority, to be responsible for any new scheme, should try to fit into their scheme slaughterhouses with modern facilities and room for extension. Slaughterhouses in "Producing" areas should also be given favourable consideration in order to prevent the transport of animals long distances and the consequent depreciation of carcasses and hides and skins.

Other Foods.Food Preparation Rooms. (including bakehouses).

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of bakehouses.....       | 12. |
| Number of inspections made..... | 54. |

Ice Cream Premises.

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Number of producer retailers..... | 4.  |
| Number of retailers only.....     | 34. |
| Number of new registrations.....  | 1.  |
| Number of inspections made.....   | 34. |

Preserved Food Premises.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved food..... | 9.  |
| Number of inspections made.....   | 52. |

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Fried Fish Shops..... | 4.  |
| Number of fish shops.....       | 5.  |
| Number of inspections made..... | 43. |

Handling, Wrapping etc., of Foods.Clean Food Campaign.

A Meeting of the Council's Health Committee and representatives of the Brecon Chamber of Trade have met to discuss the setting up of a hygienic Food Traders Guild. Both bodies have agreed in principle that this is a sound idea. Preliminary discussions are taking place with individual food traders on the preparation of Codes of Practices for each trade. It is hoped that all traders will join the Guild, for with their active co-operation there should be a further improvement in the methods of manufacturing, distributing and handling of foodstuffs.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year:-

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Cerebrospinal Fever..... | 1 case   |
| Scarlet Fever.....       | 3 cases  |
| Whooping cough.....      | 3 cases  |
| Paratyphoid fever.....   | 68 cases |



The case of cerebrospinal fever, all the cases of scarlet fever and four of the cases of paratyphoid fever were admitted to Merthyr Isolation Hospital.

The epidemic of paratyphoid fever occurred during the months of July and August and has been previously fully reported upon to the Council. At the end of the year, four of the cases of paratyphoid were still excreting the organism and were therefore carriers. In my opinion it would be desirable that all persons engaged in the handling and preparation of foodstuffs should be examined periodically for the presence of this and other organisms. Efforts will be made in future to do this on a voluntary basis.

No deaths occurred during the year as a result of any of the above diseases.

Number of cases investigated by Sanitary Inspector.....75.  
 Number of disinfections including those required  
 for tuberculosis.....8.  
 Number of faecal swabs taken for paratyphoid.....454.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....41.  
 Number of fresh cases added during the year.....6.  
 Number of cases removed as "disease arrested".....1.  
 Number of cases removed as left the district.....0.  
 Number of deaths in year.....1.  
 Number of cases left on register at end of year.....45.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below,

| 1942. | 1943. | 1944. | 1945. | 1946. | 1947. | 1948. | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. | 1952. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 7.    | 12.   | 11.   | 12.   | 10.   | 7.    | 11.   | 8.    | 13.   | 11.   | 6.    |

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1952, however, it is disturbing to note that only 31% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically asked for by the Welsh Board of Health.



I have recently obtained a copy of the Medical Officer's report for the Borough of Brecon for the year 1873. Extracts which I give below make interesting reading, illustrating as they do, the conditions existing at that time.

At that time there appeared to be a Municipal Borough and a Parliamentary Borough, of different sizes.

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Number of houses in 1861. | Municipal Borough.....1133.     |
|                           | Parliamentary Borough.....1227. |

|                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Population census 1861. | Municipal Borough.....5235.     |
| Population census 1861. | Parliamentary Borough.....5629. |
| Population 1871.        | Municipal Borough.....5845.     |
| Population 1871.        | Parliamentary Borough.....6291. |

The Borough in those days were served by two Medical Officers of Health. The first part of the report is written by the Medical Officer of Health for the parishes of St. Mary, St. David, and Christ's College.

Rainfall. 5 years average.....46.54 inches. "We are much indebted to the large quantities of rain as a means of removing much of the dirt from our streets. In January, 1839 and also in January, 1840, Llanfaes was under water for many hours with a strong current in Silver Street; this of course swept away nuisances which had been accumulating for many years. In January, 1840, typhoid fever was very prevalent throughout the town but Llanfaes and Heolwnt were far more healthy than other parts of the town, such as Baileyglas, the upper part of the Struet etc., and I could not attribute it to anything but the timely occurrence of the very high floods. The almost incessant rain by cleaning the surface gutters and flushing the sewers was in a great measure the cause.

Infectious Disease. Severe outbreaks of smallpox in 1871. Cholera caused 40 deaths in 1854.

Deaths. Average from 1861 to 1871....25.5 per 1000 population. This seems very high but the Infirmary and Workhouse were in existence in those days. Rather more than one quarter of the deaths were caused by diseases of the respiratory organs.

Water Supply. Every house should be supplied with water. The reservoir which has never been used, should therefore be rendered servicable. There were several wells of good quality water in the district.

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The food offered for sale was good with the exception of the Milk which was very often deficient in fat. Reference is made to the fact that paupers were expected to live on 2/6 per week allowed them, and a paupers wife with three children on 5/- per week.

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Comments were made about the filthy condition of the public roads. The ditch from the County Gaol to Ffrwdgrech Road was full of stagnant filth and was never cleaned out. Heolwnt and Silver Street were never clean and were never cleansed. In those streets were heaps of filth, ashes and manure. The scavenger was supposed to clean them once a week but he only swept the gutters and collects the filth into heaps which are left for weeks. St. David's Street was likewise filthy. The recommendation was made for the provision of iron bins for refuse, which could be collected once a week. Some parts of the town had sewers running direct into the Honddu and Usk. Other parts of the town such as St. Michaels, Market St., High St., Wheat St., Glamorgan St., Church St., and Free St., have no drains at all. At the lowest part of the Watton there was a quantity of rubbish, occupying a space of 20 square yards, that had been there for months. The public sewer in the Watton was of very little use, it was more a reservoir for filth than a public sewer.

The yards of the Clarence Inn contain almost everything that can be found in a catalogue of nuisances. There can be no doubt that the district is in a most unsatisfactory condition - a condition that must predispose its inhabitants to disease and to suffer severely from every epidemic that may happen to exist. The remedy is evident to everyone; the formation of a regular system of sewers with drains communicating to every house, and every house plentifully supplied with water.

### Parish of St. John's and Castle Precints.

The Medical Officer here discusses streets in detail as described below.

Upper Struet. Soil behind houses considerably higher than the basement.

Pigsties and middens in too close proximity to houses. Privies are all into vaults which are full. Several overcrowded lodging houses.

Rock and Castle. Privies are over river Honddu which is highly objectionable.

Struet. Untrapped drain. One shop has a water closet downstairs which is very filthy, stinking and which is flushed by hand. In the front cellar under the shop is a large heap of ashes and in a wheel barrow the entrails of one or more animals (killed some days) and giving off most offensive smells from decomposition. The shop is a butchers shop and it appears as though slaughtering is carried out on the premises.

Old Angel Yard. Dirty, badly kept and offensive. The police should prevent the entrance of the yard being converted into a gigantic urinal.

Chapel St. - Lon-y-baw. There is not one privy belonging to the eight houses.

Pendre - Turnpike Gate. The Madrel, as a public drain commences here, receives all the sewage of Pendre, Nicholas Row,

Priory, London Row, Baileyglas, Black Boy, Mill St. and Mill Green and empties into the Usk below Mill Green.

Mainwaring's Court.

One small yard and one privy for 7 families and emptying into the Honddu.

Nicholas Row.

Drainage into the street where slops are thrown.

Priory Row.

A great nuisance with 8 pigsties. The first house is a bakehouse with the upstairs window opening over the 8 pigsties and dung heaps.

London Row. Nine houses with only one privy which is filthy. Slops thrown into street.

Mill Green.

12 houses. No water supply. One privy.

Baileyglas.

Houses small, badly kept and badly ventilated. No drainage but the open gutter before their doors where slops and other nuisances are thrown.

Money Court.

No water nearer than Burva's well. Drains are on the surface. One privy for 10 houses.

Castle Hotel.

Clean and well ventilated. Water from Corporation water works. In the yard are pigs in a filthy state and also a very offensive privy with no water supply. There is a bad drain behind the scullery causing a stagnant and offensive overflow. By the entrance is a urinal, full of stagnant water and filthily kept.

Police Station. "My visit to the Lock-Up was voluntary". Cells were very cold, damp and dismal. A person locked up from Saturday night to noon on Monday would have just cause for complaint, and particularly so if innocent.



Urinals. Not one in St. John's. Recommended the erection of at least three - one in the recess by the Bull's Head Inn, one in the archway of the Viaduct Bridge where it crosses the Struet and one in the angle of the yard of the King's Head, Kensington.

Nuisances. What is a nuisance? Dirt in the wrong place. Remove it to its right place, to your garden or field and it becomes a natural blessing - a fertiliser of the soil.

The Medical Officer then proceeds to describe the essentials to produce a healthy Brecon.

1. Housing. It is fortunate that in future no new house can be built without the plans being first subjected to your Surveyor and approved by the Council. Suggests limiting the number of persons to live in a house - the start of prevention of overcrowding.

2. Water. Suggests enforcement of the use of Corporation water in every house. "A man possessed of a well arranged house, a good wife and plenty of healthy children and a profusion of good water, is apparently in a prosperous and happy state. Such a man and his family are on the very brink of the grave without proper sewerage which is lamentably defective. In the parish of St. John's there is but a very short piece in the Upper Struet and also one or two short pieces in the bed of the Maddrel".

3. Ventilation. This is sadly neglected in most houses. The windows should be constructed so as to be opened night and day. "But what about the night air" I hear someone say with a shudder. It is a bugbear to frighten old ladies.

The Medical Officer felt he could not close his report without touching upon a subject of vital importance to us all. It is said that there is nothing more pleasing to an Englishman, and it applies equally well to a Welshman, than a good fat bacon pig. Permission was therefore sought to say a few words about PIGS. In many instances "piggy" pays the rent and, if he is not required for that, there are few pictures more pleasing than a flitch of bacon hanging in a poor man's house.

The condition of the pigsties in the district were appalling and the Medical Officer suggested certain standards. This would cause some hardship for a time but were absolutely necessary. This suggestion was made by the Medical Officer to a "very respectable woman" in Nicholas Row who said, "very respectfully My husband is a mason, and if I cannot keep pigs, then you will have to keep us every winter in the Workhouse". The pigs grunted an assent.

The Medical Officer summarises the general sanitary state of the district as unsatisfactory. The Houses in the district, as a rule, are ill arranged; No through ventilation or fireplace upstairs; the sleeping space of the parents too frequently downstairs with stone or earth floor; the water supply uncertain and often distant; the pigsties and dung heaps in too close contiguity to the house, privy accommodation the exception and not, unfortunately, the rule and if possible erected over a stream that supplies the next neighbour, or possibly a village.

Inspection, supervision and gentle persuasion, under the new Act, will exert during the next few years, a revolution in hygeinic matters that will materially influence the public weal of this kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.M. George,

Medical Officer of Health.